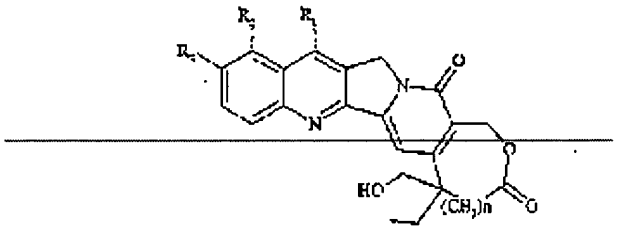
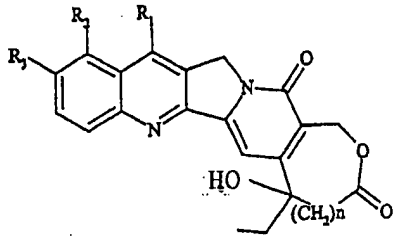
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

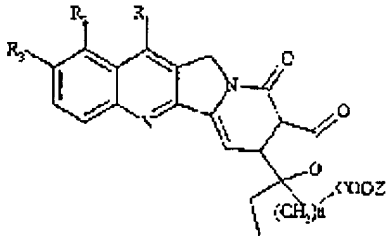
1. (Currently Amended) ~~Compounds~~A compound of formula (I) or formula (II)



(I)



(I)



(II)

where:

R_1 is hydrogen or a $-C(R_5)=N-O-R_4$ group, in which R_4 is hydrogen or a straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkyl or C_1-C_5 alkenyl group, or a C_3-C_{10} cycloalkyl group, or a straight or branched (C_3-C_{10}) cycloalkyl - (C_1-C_5) alkyl group, or a C_6-C_{14} aryl group, or a straight or

branched (C_6-C_{14}) aryl - (C_1-C_5) alkyl group, or a heterocyclic group or a straight or branched heterocyclo - (C_1-C_5) alkyl group, said heterocydic group containing at least one heteroatom selected from an atom of nitrogen, optionally substituted with an (C_1-C_5) alkyl group, and/or an atom of oxygen and/or of sulphur; said alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl, aryl, aryl-alkyl, heterocyclic or heterocyclo-alkyl groups can optionally be substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of: halogen, hydroxy, C_1-C_5 alkyl, C_1-C_5 alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro, and -NR_6R_7, where R_6 and R_7, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched (C_1-C_5) alkyl, the -COOH group or one of its pharmaceutically acceptable esters; or the –CON_8R_9 group, where R_8 and R_9, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched (C_1-C_5) alkyl; or

R_4 is a (C_6-C_{10}) aroyl or (C_6-C_{10}) arylsulphonyl residue, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from: halogen, hydroxy, straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkyl, straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro, -$NR_{10}R_{11}$, where R_{10} and R_{11}, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkyl; or:

R_4 is a polyaminoalkyl residue; or

R_4 is a glycosyl residue;

R_5 is hydrogen, straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkyl, straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkenyl, C_3-C_{10} cycloalkyl, straight or branched (C_3-C_{10}) cycloalkyl - (C_1-C_5) alkyl, C_6-C_{14} aryl, straight or branched (C_6-C_{14}) aryl -(C1-C_5) alkyl;

R_2 and R_3, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, hydroxy, straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkoxy;

n = 1 or 2,

Z is selected from hydrogen, straight or branched C_1-C_4 alkyl;

the N_1-oxides, the racemic mixtures, their individual enantiomers, their individual diastereoisomers, their mixtures, and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts, with the proviso that, in formula (I), R_1, R_2 and R_3 cannot be simultaneously hydrogen and with the proviso that, when R_1 and R_2 are hydrogen, R_2 is not –OH or $-OCH_3$.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~compounds~~compound according to claim 1, in which, in formula (I), n is 1.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~compounds~~compound according to claim 1, in which, in formula (II), n is 1.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~compounds~~compound according to claim 2, selected from the group consisting of:

— R,S-7-methoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

— R,S-7-ethoxyiminomethyl- homocamptothecin;

— R,S-7-isopropoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

— R,S-7-(2-methylbutoxy)iminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

— R,S-7-(1-t-butoxy)iminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

— R,S-7-(4-hydroxybutoxy)iminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

— R,S-7- triphenylmethoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin.

— R,S-7-carboxymethoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

— R,S- 7-aminoethoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin

— R,S- 7-(N,N-dimethylaminoethoxy)iminomethyl-homocamptothecin

- R,S-7-allyloxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-cyclohexyloxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-cyclohexylmethoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-cyclooctyloxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-cyclooctylmethoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-benzyloxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-(benzyloxy)iminophenylmethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-(1-benzyloxy)iminoethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-(1-t-butoxy)iminoethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-p-nitrobenzyloxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-p -methylbenzyloxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-pentafluorobenzyloxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-p-phenylbenzyloxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-(2,4-difluorobenzylmethoxy)iminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-(4-t-butylphenylmethoxy)iminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-(1-adamantyloxy)iminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-(1-adamantylmethoxy)iminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-(2-naphthalenyloxy)iminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-(9-anthracenylmethoxy)iminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-(6-uracyl)methoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7- (4-pyridil)methoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-(2-thienyl)methoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-[(N-methyl)-3-piperidinyl]methoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin; and

— R,S-7-hydroxyiminophenylmethyl-homocamptothecin.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~compounds~~compound according to claim 3, selected from the group consisting of:

— { 10-[(E)-(ter-butoxyimino)methyl]-3-ethyl-1,13-dioxo-11,13-dihydro-1H,3H-furo[3',4':6,7]indolizino[1,2-b]quinolin-3-yl}acetic acid

— (10-{ (E)-[(benzyloxy)imino]methyl}-3-ethyl-1,13-dioxo-11, 13-dihydro- 1H, 3H-furo[3',4':6,7]indolizino[1,2-b]quinolin-3-yl)acetic acid

— (3-ethyl-1,13-dioxo-11,13-dihydro-1H,3H-furo[3',4':6,7]

— indolizino[1,2-b]quinolin-3-yl)acetic acid, and

— ter-butylic ester of (3-ethyl-1,13-dioxo-11,13-dihydro-1H,3H-furo[3',4':6,7] indolizino[1,2-b]quinolin-3-yl)acetic acid.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~A process for the preparation of a formula (I) ~~compounds~~compound according to claim 1 in which R_1 is hydrogen~~ and R_2 and R_3 are as defined above~~, comprising:

a) reduction of the keto group in position 19 of the camptothecin, ~~optionally substituted with the envisaged meanings of~~in which the groups R_2 and R_3 have the meaning as in formula (I), to yield ~~the~~a ~~19,20~~19,20-dihydroxy-derivative;

b) treatment of the derivative obtained in step a) with periodate and acetic acid, to obtain ~~the~~ opening of the E ring;

c) Reformatsky reaction on the derivative obtained in step b); and

d) formation of the E ring where n is 1 or 2.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~A process for the preparation of a formula (I) ~~compounds~~compound according to claim 1, in which R_1 is a -C(R_5)=N-O-R_4 group ~~and R_2, R_3, R_4 and R_5 are as defined above~~, comprising:

a) transformation of the camptothecin, optionally substituted with ~~the envisaged meanings of~~ R_2 and R_3 have the meanings as in formula (I), to ~~7-(d-methoxymethyl)camptothecin~~7-(dimethoxymethyl)camptothecin;

b) reduction of the keto group in position 19 of the 7-(dimethoxymethyl)camptothecin, to yield ~~the~~a derivative 19, 20-dihydroxy;

c) treatment of the derivative obtained in step b) with periodate and acetic acid, to obtain ~~the~~ opening of the E ring; and

d) Reformatsky reaction on the derivative obtained in step c);

e) treatment of the compound obtained in step d) with a formula R_4ONH_2 oxime and simultaneous formation of ring E where n is 1 or 2.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~A process for the preparation of a formula (II) ~~compounds~~compound according to claim 1 in which R_1 is hydrogen ~~and R_2 and R_3 are as defined above~~, comprising:

a) reduction of the keto group in position 19 of the camptothecin, optionally substituted with ~~the envisaged meanings of~~ R_2 and R_3 have the meanings as in formula (II), to yield ~~the~~a derivative 19,20-dihydroxy;

b) treatment of the derivative obtained in step a) with periodate and acetic acid, to obtain ~~the~~ opening of the E ring;

c) Reformatsky reaction on the derivative obtained in step b);

d) treatment of the derivative obtained in step c) with PDC with formation of the E ring and, if so desired;

e) transformation of the Z group to hydrogen.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~A process for the preparation of a formula (II) ~~compounds~~compound according to claim 1 in which R_1 is a $-C(R_5)=N-O-R_4$ group~~ and R_2, R_3, R_4 and R_5 are as defined above~~, comprising:

a) transformation of the camptothecin, optionally substituted with ~~the envisaged meanings of~~ R_2 and R_3, to 7-(dimethoxymethyl)camptothecin;

b) reduction of the keto group in position 19 of the 7-(dimethoxymethyl)camptothecin, optionally substituted with the envisaged meanings of R_2 and R_3, to yield ~~the~~a derivative 19,20-dihydroxy;

c) treatment of the derivative obtained in step b) with periodate and acetic acid, to obtain ~~the~~ opening of the E ring;

~~e~~d) Reformatsky reaction on the derivative obtained in step c);

~~d~~e) treatment of the derivative obtained in step ~~e~~d) with PDC with formation of the E ring;

~~e~~f) treatment of the compound obtained in step ~~d~~e) with an oxime of formula R_4ONH_2 and, if so desired,

~~f~~g) transformation of the Z group to hydrogen.

10.-12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Pharmaceutical~~A pharmaceutical composition containing a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound according to claim 1 in admixture with pharmaceutically acceptable vehicles and excipients.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Pharmaceutical~~The pharmaceutical composition according to claim ~~14~~13, in which the ~~other~~composition also contains as an active ingredient ~~is~~ an anticancer agent.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting topoisomerase I in a subject in need of such inhibition comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of ~~Use of~~ a compound according to claim 1~~, for the preparation of a medicament with topoisomerase I inhibiting activity~~.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for treating ~~The use according to claim 16 for the preparation of a medicament useful for the treatment of~~ tumours in a subject in need of such treatment comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a ~~The use according to claim 16 for the preparation of a medicament useful for the treatment of~~ parasitic or viral ~~infections~~infection

in a subject in need of such treatment comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

19. (New) The method of claim 17, in which the tumor is a lung tumor.